Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Office Action of September 5, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-21. (Canceled)
- 22. (Original): A method of synthesizing a modular fluorescence sensor comprising the steps of:
 - (a) forming an asymmetric compound of the following general formula:

Fl—
$$(CH_2)_n$$
— N
Sp N — $(CH_2)_x$ —An
 \mid
H

wherein:

Fl is a fluorophore;

N is a nitrogen atom and H is a hydrogen atom;

Sp is an aliphatic spacer;

An is an anchor group for attaching the sensor to a solid substrate; and n = 1 or 2, and x is any integer; and

- (b) replacing hydrogen atoms with B_{d1} and B_{d2} groups, wherein B_{d1} and B_{d2} are independently selected binding groups capable of binding an analyte molecule to form a stable 1:1 complex.
- 23. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein Fl is selected from the group consisting of naphtyl, anthryl, pyrenyl, phenanthryl, and perylenyl.

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- 24. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein B_{d1} is R_1 -B(OH)₂ and B_{d2} is R_2 -B(OH)₂, wherein R_1 and R_2 are aliphatic or aromatic functional groups selected independently from each other, and B is a boron atom.
- 25. (Currently amended): The method of claim 24, wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected from the group consisting of: methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, phenyl, methoxy, ethoxy, butoxy, and phenoxy groups.
- 26. (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein the step of replacing of hydrogen atoms comprises adding orthobromomethyl phenylboronic acid.
- 27. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein Sp is a straight-chain alkane.
- 28. (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein the straight-chain alkane comprises 9 carbon atoms.
- 29. (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the straight-chain alkane comprises 6 carbon atoms.
- 30. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein An comprises an organic functionality.
 - 31. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein An comprises methyl.
 - 32. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein An comprises phenyl.
 - 33-60. (Canceled).